

be involved in the disclosures," and Lulu tapped the list with an agitated gesture.

"Unfortunate, perhaps, but not poor," corrected Vasco; "if you read the list carefully you'll notice that I haven't troubled to include anyone whose financial standing isn't above question."

Lulu glared at her nephew for some moments in silence. Then she asked hoarsely: "What are you going to do?"

"Nothing -- for the remainder of my life," he answered meaningfully. "A little hunting, perhaps," he continued, "and I shall have a villa at Florence. The Villa Sub-Rosa would sound rather quaint and picturesque, don't you think, and quite a lot of people would be able to attach a meaning to the name. And I suppose I must have a hobby; I shall probably collect Raeburns."

Lulu's relative, who lived at the Court of Monaco, got quite a snappish answer when she wrote recommending some further invention in the realm of marine research.

-----

# The Treasure Ship

Saki (H H Munro)

DIFFUSION GENERATOR

of all these poor, unfortunate people who would once. Supposing anything should leak out, think "Then you should put them out of harm's way at

the young man.

"Oh, they are, I assure you of that," interposed Vasco.

"But you should have," said Lulu angrily; "if, as you say, they are highly compromised --"

Vasco shook his head.

remark with an entire lack of conviction.

herself. She was conscious that she made the asked, when she had somewhat recovered

"Of course you have destroyed the papers?" she

almost paralysing effect on her thinking faculties.

her own name at the head of the list exercised an nearly every one she knew. As a matter of fact,

names, which seemed for the moment to include

The Duchess gazed helplessly at the string of

head of it, otherwise it follows alphabetical order."

papers were made public. I've put you at the very disagreeable scandal if the *Sub-Rosa's*

the well-known people who would be involved in a

"Oh no," said Vasco carelessly, "that is a list of

asked.

"Was this in the *Sub-Rosa's* strong-box?" she

researches in which the Throne of that country,

taken a respectful interest in the deep-sea

Maid of Honour at the Court of Monaco, and had been

aut on her mother's side of the family had been

precisely located and cheaply dismembered. An

method by which the said treasure might be

propositions; she also believed that she knew of a

existence of a sunken treasure of alluring

The Duchess was not only a believer in the

Duchess of Duverton.

goblin gold. Of the former school was Lulu,

and debased their contents to the currency of

higher criticism to the submerged treasure chests,

Some were as generous in their estimate as an

There again the learned were in disagreement.

and report, taken much out of it. But how much?

into the world, but it had, according to tradition

squadron -- precisely which squadron the learned

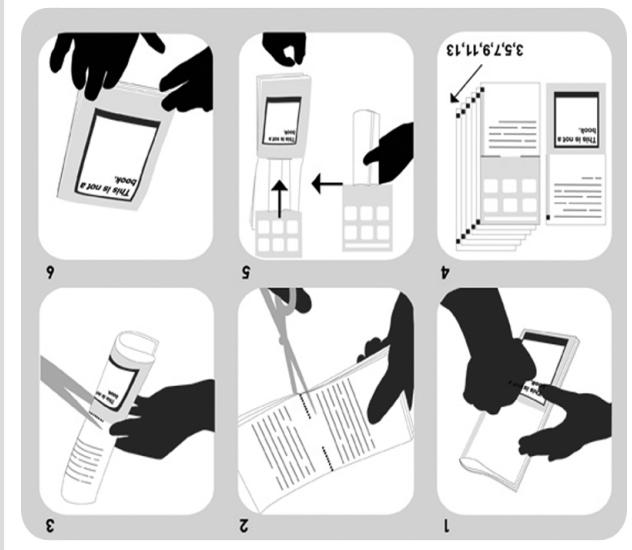
the high seas as an important unit of a fighting

had passed since the day when it had taken to

ago encircled it. Three and quarter centuries

where the fortune of war and weather had long

the great galleon lay in semi-retirement under



available to download, print out and share.  
DIFFUSION eBooks are designed to be freely  
[www.diffusion.org.uk](http://www.diffusion.org.uk)

created on: Wed Mar 5 15:54:27 2008  
**Saki (H H Munro)**  
**The Treasure Ship**

impatient perhaps of its terrestrial restrictions, was wont to immerse itself. It was through the instrumentality of this relative that the Duchess learned of an invention, perfected and very nearly patented by a Monegaskan savant, by means of which the home-life of the Mediterranean sardine might be studied at a depth of many fathoms in a cold white light of more than ball-room brilliancy. Implicated in this invention (and, in the Duchess's eyes, the most attractive part of it) was an electric suction dredge, specially designed for dragging to the surface such objects of interest and value as might be found in the more accessible levels of the ocean-bed. The rights of the invention were to be acquired for a matter of eighteen hundred francs, and the apparatus for a few thousand more. The Duchess of Dulverton was rich, as the world counted wealth; she nursed the hope, of being one day rich at her own computation. Companies had been formed and efforts had been made again and again during the course of three centuries to probe for the alleged treasures of the interesting galleon; with the aid of this invention she considered that she might go to work on the wreck privately and independently. After all, one of her ancestors on her mother's side was descended from Medina Sidonia, so she

silence.

Vasco's conscience was liable to fits of obstinate superstition. Where money was in question under the necessary safeguards in the way of situation it would certainly be Vasco -- of course, anyone could extract gold from an unpromising direction of a treasure-seekings experiment, if though he herself of his eminent suitability for the money when he wrote to her. Now, however, she out of town he called on her, and short of recent years to the negative processes of being Luis's interlocuse with him had been restricted or assurred rather than to explore the unknown.

industry of adventurer, preferring to exploit the but he limited himself strictly to the home that he might live up to its adventurous tradition, Vasco had been given him possibly in the hope impartially and precariously on both. The name and a large circle of relatives, and lived Vasco Honiton, a young gentleman who was blessed with a small income possessed a nephew, Vasco Honiton, a young Among other family ties and encumbrances, Luis and bought the apparatus.

treasure as anyone. She acquired the invention was of opinion that she had as much right to the

Somewhere on the west coast of Ireland the Dulverton property included a few acres of shingle, rock, and heather, too barren to support even an agrarian outrage, but embracing a small and fairly deep bay where the lobster yield was good in most seasons. There was a bleak little house on the property, and for those who liked lobsters and solitude, and were able to accept an Irish cook's ideas as to what might be perpetrated in the name of mayonnaise, Innisgluther was a tolerable exile during the summer months. Lulu seldom went there herself, but she lent the house lavishly to friends and relations. She put it now at Vasco's disposal.

"It will be the very place to practise and experiment with the salvage apparatus," she said; "the bay is quite deep in places, and you will be able to test everything thoroughly before starting on the treasure hunt."

In less than three weeks Vasco turned up in town to report progress.

"The apparatus works beautifully," he informed his aunt; "the deeper one got the clearer everything grew. We found something in the way of a sunken wreck to operate on, too!"

Text from Project Gutenberg: www.gutenberg.net  
ccx074@conventry.ac.uk  
Head edition by David Price,  
Transcribed from the 1914 John Lane, The Bodley

appreciably nearer the fireplace.  
at it in almost indecent haste and moved  
out a folded slip of paper. The Duchess snatched  
in the inner breast-pocket of his coat. He drew  
with dramatic effect and searched for a moment  
strong-box. It contained papers." Vasco passed  
In a locker of the *Sub-Rosa* I found a water-tight

know? The thing happened three years ago."  
"Know? How can you know? How can anyone  
I know," said Vasco simply.

"What do you mean?" asked the Duchess  
hurriedly. "What makes you think so?"  
"In this case they were right," said Vasco.

"In this case they were tragic happens."  
the boat was capsized intentionally -- a case of  
suicide, you know. People always say that sort of  
thing when anything tragic happens.  
ashore at the Point. People said at the time that  
coast some years ago. His body was washed  
I remember it went down somewhere off that

"No! really?" said Lulu; "poor Billy Utley's boat.  
Vasco.  
"A submerged motor-boat, the *Sub-Rosa*," said  
"A wreck in Innisgluther Bay!" exclaimed Lulu.